

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9108

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AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CSCE, SOPN, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET TV OFFICIALS ON US-USSR COOPERATION

1. DURING JUNE 15 MEETING WITH LEV KOROLYEV, CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FOR SOVIET TV-RADIO, IO RECALLED EARLIER CONVERSATIONS WITH KOROLYEV ON POSSIBILITY OF TV DISCUSSION BETWEEN SOVIET AND AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ON CSCE. IO NOTED THAT ONE OF KORLYEV ASSISTANTS HAD ALREADY BEEN INFORMED OF NBC SPECIAL NEWS REPORT ON A US-USSR DEBATE ON HUMAN RIGHTS SHOWN IN US ON JUNE 12. ACCORDING TO NBC NEWS PRESS RELEASE, SOVIETS HAD BEEN INVITED TO RE-BROADCAST THE PROGRAM. KOROLYEV SAID HE NOT AWARE OF PROGRAM BUT WOULD DISCUSS IT WITH NBC NEWS EXECUTIVES EXPECTED IN MOSCOW WEEK OF JUNE 19.

2. IN INTERESTING ASIDE, KOROLYEV NOTED THAT NBC HAS ALREADY AGREED TO AIR SOVIET-MADE TV PROGRAM ON LENINGRAD ICE SHOW AND IS CONSIDERING PURCHASING TAPES OF BOLSHOI PERFORMANCES OF "BORIS GODUNOV" AND "NUTCRACKER". WHEN EMBOFFS INQUIRED IF THIS WAS RESULT OF FURTHER EFFORTS BY WEST GERMAN IMPRESARIO AND MIDDLEMAN LOTHAR BOCK (WHO PLAYED CRUCIAL ROLE IN GETTING NBC RIGHTS

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TO 1980 MOSCOW OLYMPICS), KOROLYEV SAID THIS WAS "WITHOUT BOCK." "WE DON'T WANT TO DO EVERYTHING THROUGH BOCK," KOROLYEV ADDED SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVELY.

3. COMMENT: IF KOROLYEV'S "STATUS REPORT" ON SOVIET-NBC COOPERATION IS CORRECT, IT MAY BE FIRST FIRM EVIDENCE THAT OLYMPICS DEAL MAY ALSO RESULT IN BROADER EXPOSURE FOR SOVIET

PROGRAMMING IN U.S. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO INQUIRE FURTHER ABOUT
NBC PLANS TO PURCHASE SOVIET TV PROGRAMS, AND TO OFFER US TV
PROGRAMS TO SOVIETS.

4. ACCORDING TO ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN
NBC OFFICIALS AND SOVIET TV OFFICIALS ON JUNE 21, THE CHAIRMAN OF
THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR TV-RADIO, SERGEY G. LAPIN, BLAMED PRESI-
DENT CARTER FOR "IMPEDING" EXPANDED COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND
USSR. THE NBC OFFICIALS WERE REPORTEDLY SEEKING EXPANDED
REPRESENTATION AND OFFICE FACILITIES IN MOSCOW TO HANDLE THEIR
INCREASING ACTIVITIES CONNECTED WITH THE 1980 OLYMPICS. CHAIRMAN
LAPIN WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE DECISION ON A LARGER OFFICE
WOULD BE MADE BY THE MFA, BUT IN HIS OPINION, AS LONG AS
PRESIDENT CARTER CONTINUED HIS "ANTI-SOVIET" POLICIES, THERE
WOULD NOT BE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE IN THE USSR TOWARD AN EXPANDED
US PRESENCE.
TOON

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